



Video

FULL DETAILS AND TRANSCRIPT

Letters and Sounds

Topic: Preschool Language and Literacy

Practice: Teach Phonological Awareness

Highlights

- Teacher demonstrates a classroom activity for teaching phonemic awareness
- Includes a brief lesson on teaching letter-sound correspondence

About the Source

The Reading Rockets project is comprised of PBS television programs, available on videotape and DVD; online services, including the web sites ReadingRockets.org and ColorinColorado.org; and professional development opportunities. Reading Rockets is an educational initiative of WETA, the flagship public television and radio station in the nation's capital, and is funded by a major grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs.

Full Transcript

BENING: The Mark Hopkins School is located at the center of Sacramento's large Hmong community. Kabee Lee has been teaching here since 1996.

LEE, VOICE-OVER: One of the reasons I chose Mark Hopkins to come and work at is because of the diversity in the community. We have English-speaking students. We have Hmong students. We have Spanish students. We have Hindi students, Tongan. It's like, just like a bowl of salad, you know. We have everything mixed together.

BENING: With so many of his kindergartners speaking foreign languages at home, Mr. Lee must work extra hard to teach reading in English.

LEE: We need Leo to help us. Good job. You ready? Leo's coming. Leo's looking to see who's ready. Now, Leo has a problem. He wants to say a word, but he keeps forgetting a sound—a sound at the end.

Now, Leo wants some ice cream, but Leo cannot say the word ice cream. He forgets a sound. What?

BENING: Experts say that kindergarten teachers should help their students achieve phonemic awareness—the realization that within a word are individual sounds, or phonemes.

LEE: I want to sing about ice crea... What sound did he forget?

KIDS: Mmm.

LEE: Very good. Let's try the next one. Another word. "The star's so bright." The star's so brigh...

KIDS: The star's so bright.

BENING: Being able to hear the sounds inside a word is just one step down the path to reading.

LEE: A big glass of mil... What's the sound?

BENING: A child must also learn which letters go with which sounds-- phonics, in other words.

LEE: All right, let's see who's ready. We're going to do our letters, pictures and sounds. Ready? Letter?

KIDS: "T"

LEE: Picture?

KIDS: Tiger

LEE: Sound?

KIDS: /t/ /t/